

The Oscillator

The Club...wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective and established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

Est: 1978

KK7TN Paragraphs Don Stettler KK7TN

OTVARC SPOTLIGHT:

Events

- Annual Holiday Dinner - December 10
- Lunch Bunch - December 28
- Fifth Wednesday Contest - December 31
- Club Meeting - January 14
- Club Meeting - February 11
- Club Meeting - March 10
- Fifth Wednesday Contest - March 31

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I am grateful for the response I received about last month's paragraphs. For one thing Richard Booth, W7VPV,

offered to take the lead in revitalizing the club's badge and jacket program. Richard will be meeting with the board early next year to share his ideas on how we might approach this effort.

Secondly, I learned that the OTVARC logo, which I so irreverently referred to as an obese insect, was developed by a cartoonist

for The Oregonian.

Ernie and Claire Johnson, K7EAJ and N7CM, had a nice piece done on them "Hamming it up on the airwaves" in the November 13th Hillsboro Argus. Claire complained to me that now everyone knows too much about us. In any event, it was a nice story along with good pictures and good publicity for amateur radio. Congratulations to Ernie and Claire.

The November ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was interesting exercise. The SET emphasized National Traffic System (NTS)

messaging. Al, KK7XO, in Keno had the lead in developing the SET, a huge effort on his part. The SET involved answering 26 questions using an NTS message to an official scoring station. Several of the questions were to identify the movie in which a given quote was made. On the Friday before the questions were released I made an apheresis donation to the Red Cross. This is a lengthy process requiring about two hours. Apheresis donors generally watch

See PARAGRAPHS, P. 2

THE PROGRAM - Wednesday, December 10th

We meet Wednesday, December 10th. Our Holiday Dinner is at 6:00 pm at the Beaverton Elks' Club, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton.

Once again this year, Jim Fischer will provide entertainment for our Holiday program. There will be a special drawing, good friends at the

tables, and a buffet line you'll enjoy.

A brief business meeting will be held to announce results of our election. Be sure your ballot is present by 6:00 pm or mailed to the post office box to arrive by that time.

HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

On Wednesday, December 10, 2003, we'll join together for our traditional Holiday Dinner Meeting at the Beaverton Elks' Club, in the ball room.

We'll have a "Turkey One-Time-Through-Buffer" and a great time.

Plan on the regular raffle plus the special blue raffle (a gift certificate for a Bed & Breakfast in Lincoln City and Chinook Winds).

Bring a white elephant for gift exchange if you'd like to join in the fun of giving (and taking!).

The ballots will be counted for 2004 club board officer and trustee election.

Bring canned food for the Elks' holiday food distribution.

Paragraphs, from page 1

a video to while the time. I chose "Citizen Kane," a movie I have been aware of for many years but had never watched. In this 1941 movie, multimillionaire newspaper tycoon Charles Foster Kane dies alone in his extravagant mansion, Xanadu, speaking a single word: "Rosebud". I thought it quite a coincident that the SET's question 21 was "Rosebud." I should have gotten one correct answer.

Wishing you and yours Happy Holidays.

Don
KK7TN

Club Events

- Dec. 10: Holiday Dinner Meeting (6 pm)
- Dec. 17: Board Meeting (7 pm)
- Dec. 31: Fifth Wednesday Contest (8 pm)
- Jan. 14: Club Meeting (7 pm)
- Jan. 28: Board Meeting (7 pm)
- Feb. 11: Club Meeting (7 pm)
- Feb. 25: Board Meeting (7 pm)
- Mar. 3: Club Meeting (7 pm)
- Mar. 24: Board Meeting (7 pm)
- Mar. 31 Fifth Wednesday (8 pm)

HAMFests

Feb. 21, 2004: Rickreall
Salem Repeater Association
<http://www.qsl.net/w7sra/>
Denis Miller, WC7M
PO Box 17803
Salem, OR 97305
503-507-6523
wc7m@arrl.net

LUNCH BUNCH

Our December Lunch Bunch will be a breakfast at Old Country Buffet in Beaverton, Sunday, December 28, 2003 at 8:30 am. Come and meet in a casual setting with other hams.

Old Country Buffet is located at Hall Street Center, 3790 SW Hall Blvd, Beaverton.

APRS ON THE ROAD IN CALIFORNIA, Carl W7LI

I just got back from a long road trip through Arizona and California with APRS on board for the first time. I intended to keep it simple with a small Garmin GPS, Kenwood TH-D7AG 5 watt handheld, and a small mag-mount antenna.

You find out in a hurry that not all locations have easy access to a 144.390 MHz digipeater. Even if one is nearby, sometimes the traffic congestion will overrun the little low power guy in his mobile rig. This can happen when your too far from a digipeater or traveling through a very populated area with lots of other hams on APRS.

About 65% of the time the radio would display "My Position" and let out a couple beeps to verify W7LI was acknowledged. That usually meant it also made it through an Internet iGate and then the family back home could pull up the www.findu.com site to see where we might have landed for the night or just a days outing.

Several times friends called on our cell phone to inquire if we were alright out there in the middle of a national forest with no visible roads on the display maps. That happened up near the Palomar Observatory in California. Good APRS access all the way to San Diego but no roads under us, or so it seemed to those who called.

Looks like the bug bit and next year should find your north editor on the road again but

with 50 watts on APRS and a new permanently installed rig in the front seat. Even the XYL likes the new technology.

LEARN PACKET ONLINE

You've been interested in Packet Radio for hams, but just never found the time to get enough knowledge to get a packet station on the air.

Packet is a networking system that allows communication from keyboard to keyboard, and forwarding of messages in written form to holding folders on destination machines.

Isn't it about time you gave yourself a packet education? Go to www.choisser.com/hamradio/packet.html and get acquainted.

Packet radio has become a useful tool for emergency communications. Lets expand the numbers of packet operators in OTVARC.

CIRCUIT, from Page 5

The FCC will decide this, probably sometime in 2004. There are many reasons to continue Morse testing for the Amateur Service. There is our tradition and history, the fact that it takes up less bandwidth, gets through in emergencies, helps ease language differences and demonstrates a commitment and dedication to the hobby/service. There are other reasons too numerous to list here that also argue for a continuation of Morse testing.

To make things more difficult, many hams advocate for a kind of middle ground: eliminate CW requirements from the General class but retain it for Amateur Extra only.

It is up to the ARRL to make a recommendation to the FCC. We can advocate that CW testing be retained or eliminated or otherwise changed. What should we as Amateurs recommend to the FCC? Whatever we urge, the FCC will still have the final say and they will decide. But we as the ARRL should take a position and urge the FCC to adopt it. It is our responsibility.

Please let me know what you think I should do as your representative on the ARRL Board of Directors. I'm elected from and represent the North-western Division. We are the National Organization for Amateur Radio.



NORTHWESTERN DIVISION CIRCUIT, Greg W7OZ

It's time for another update. Recently I've been out of the country and unable to access my messages. I'm catching up but slowly. I have attended two meetings recently...the Volunteer Resources Committee and the ARRL Executive Committee. Both were held in the Dallas-Ft Worth area. We discussed a good many things but top of

the list was the CW question. Let me put forth some of my thinking.

There has been confusion concerning the code - no code issue facing Amateur Radio. Last summer the IRU in effect changed the world requirement for licensing amateur operators. Previously one could only be licensed to operate in the HF spectrum (below 30 MHz) by demonstrating a knowledge of Morse code. That is not necessarily true

in some places in the world now.

In the U.S., for HF operation, the F.C.C. requires that we be tested for Morse at 5 words per minute. Until a few years ago we had to know CW at 20 wpm. for an Amateur Extra license, 13 w.p.m. for Advanced and General licenses and 5 wpm. for Novice and Tech Plus. There was no CW testing requirement for what

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VE News

Our next session is Saturday, **December 6th**, 1:00 pm at Ronler Acres Fire Station in Hillsboro (across from the stadium just off Evergreen Parkway.

Volunteer exam sessions are provided by VEs members of OTVARC as a service to the community. For more information contact Carl WS7L, at ws7l@arrl.net.

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Elections Update

The Elections Committee has prepared nominations for 2004 club officers and trustees and open nominations were received at the November club meeting. Your ballot should have been received by postal mail. The ballots may be returned to the club post office box (PO Box 5132, Beaverton, OR 97006-0132) or in person by 6:00 pm on December 10th at the club meeting. They will be counted and results will be announced at the meeting. We thank Elections Committee members: Maureen O'Rourke KA7LAP; John Anderson KA7BRZ; and Claire Johnson N7CM.

OTVARC 5TH WEDNESDAY RADIO CONTEST - December 31, 2003

- 1) Object: To work as many amateur stations as possible in as many different 5-digit ZIP codes as possible, using 147.54 FM simplex.
- 2) Contest Period: 2000 local through 2100 local, Wednesday, December 31, 2003 (8:00 – 9:00 PM PDT).
- 3) Categories:
 - A) Single Operator: One person performs all operating and logging functions.
 - B) Single Operator QRP: Same as (A) with a power limitation of 5 watts.
 - C) Multi-operator: More than one person performing operating and logging functions.
- 4) Exchange: Operating 5-digit ZIP Code and Station Category.
- 5) Scoring:
 - A) QSO points: Count one (1) point for each complete single operator or multi-operator QSO. Count two (2) points for each complete single operator QRP contact.
 - B) Multiplier: The total number of 5-digit ZIP codes worked.
 - C) Total score: Multiply the total number of QSO points by the multiplier.
- 6) Miscellaneous:
 - A) Partial QSOs do not count. Both calls, the full exchange, and acknowledgement must be sent and received.
 - B) While no minimum distance is specified for contacts, equipment should be capable of real communications (ie. able to communicate over at least 1 km.).
 - C) Use of repeaters and telephones to coordinate contacts is not allowed.
 - D) Rovers are not allowed as entries in the contest. Mobile stations can be contacted by stations in the contest. Mobile stations will not have a ZIP code and will not count toward the multiplier count.
 - E) Only one call may be used by any station.
- 7) Reporting:
 - A) Entries must be delivered to the contest organizers at or before the January 14, 2004 OTVARC club meeting. (to: Jim Schaeffer, KB7ADH), or by mail to the Club Post Office Address.
 - B) Entries must be made on log sheets showing time of QSO, Call, Zip Code and Contest Category.
- 8) Awards:
 - A) Certificates will be awarded for the top points winner in each station category.
 - B) Awards will be made at the club meeting February 11, 2004.

Contest Summary Sheet

Call Used _____ Operating ZIP Code _____

Other Operators _____

Category: A - Single Op B - Single Op QRP C - Multi-operator

Scoring:	Category A QSO's _____	x 1 = _____	
	Category B QSO's _____	x 2 = _____	
	Category C QSO's _____	x 1 = _____	
	TOTAL QSO Points _____		
	Times Number of Zip Codes x _____		
	TOTAL CLAIMED SCORE _____		

Signed _____

Date _____

Attach Log Sheets detailing all contacts, including Call, ZIP Code, Category, and Time.

CIRCUIT, from Page 4

came to be known as no code Tech (no authority to operate on HF however). For testing at 13 and 20 wpm there was a program allowing for a physician's waiver of the Morse test.

In 1999 the FCC changed the Amateur licensing structure to eliminate future grants for Novice, Advanced and Tech Plus licenses. These licensees however were allowed to continue to operate and to renew their licenses as before. Don't ask me to explain Tech Plus licenses. They were no longer to be issued but they still kept certain HF CW privileges. The FCC said they would not list no code Techs in their database, apart from Tech Plus. Let's just not go into the logic of this.

Except for those frozen licenses, there were to be just three classes of Amateur licenses granted in the future: Amateur Extra, General and Technician. The first two require a 5 wpm. CW test and the latter is a no code entry license (with no HF authority).

Why, you ask did the FCC retract from the 20 and 13 wpm. tests and simply require 5 wpm knowledge? As I understand it, the FCC didn't want to deal with the somewhat controversial physician waiver situation.

In my opinion that is why there will be no chance to return to 13 and 20 wpm. nor any other suggested speed above 5 wpm. even if we wanted to do so. For some reason waivers have never been allowed for

tests of 5 wpm.

In fact the question now before us is whether there will continue to be ANY CW testing requirement for any class license. As I mentioned above, there is no longer an international requirement for Morse code testing.

Now, each administration (country) can decide for themselves whether to require Morse testing. A number of countries have been quick to erase code testing from their regulations. Previously most all U.S. government agencies, military and civilian dropped their requirements and use of Morse. Does this mean we Amateurs have to do likewise? It does not.

See CIRCUIT, Page 3

MOONBOUNCE Update, Carl W7LI

Jeremy, W7EME, and his friends, almost put the north end of Lincoln County on the DX map. They had their sights trained on working 2 meter cw and JT-44 moonbounce during the EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contest on November 15 and 16.

The operating location was Cascade Head and is in a very rare grid square that protrudes into land just a few feet near the end of the road going West.

The crew was inundated with requests from all over the world to set up schedules and work moonbounce during this

contest. Murphy stepped in at the last minute when they couldn't line up a 300 watt or higher power amplifier. 300 watts is the minimum needed to get a signal out to the moon and back for c.w. or JT-44. Jeremy is making arrangements to buy a 1 kw amp for 2 meters and reschedule the DX crunch for a future date.

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861.

2. The second part is a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, dated January 1, 1861.

3. The third part is a report from the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 1, 1861.

4. The fourth part is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 1, 1861.

5. The fifth part is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 1, 1861.

6. The sixth part is a report from the Secretary of the State, dated January 1, 1861.

7. The seventh part is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 1, 1861.

8. The eighth part is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 1, 1861.

9. The ninth part is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 1, 1861.

10. The tenth part is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 1, 1861.

11. The eleventh part is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 1, 1861.

12. The twelfth part is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 1, 1861.

13. The thirteenth part is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 1, 1861.

14. The fourteenth part is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 1, 1861.



**Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

Post Office Box 5132
Aloha OR 97006-0132
Email: w7otv@arri.net

Web: WWW.OTVARC.ORG
w7otv@arri.net
Simplex: 147.54 MHz
Repeaters: 146.96 MHz
440.350 MHz (127.3)
Editor: Everett W6ABM
w6abm@yahoo.com

**CLUB MEETING
DECEMBER 10TH**

Happy December Birthday

- 3: Walter Evans K7NSA
Joan Schouweiler N7LMK
6: Phil Kane K2ASP
9: Roland West K7MCK
13: Richard Ballard W7AND
16: Bob Ledbetter K6RH
17: Peter Hardiman N7DUC
19: Pete Thunem WA7JBG
23: Robert Kempter WA7WJA
27: Floyd Ragner N7ONQ
28: Ken Nordling W7EZE
31: Bill Vesser N7RYQ

Membership dues are \$16/year; Family member(s) of full members at same address \$21/household; Full Time students and members of two years or more at age 70 or older (Life Members) are dues free. See Club Treasurer about purchase of life membership prior to age 70. If you wish to join during the year, dues are pro-rated.

Membership applications may be found on the Club Website or on request from the Treasurer. The OSCILLATOR is published Monthly for members. The deadline for the January issue is Tuesday, December 23rd.

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We advance the Amateur Radio Service through:
=> Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
=> Public Service and Emergency communication
=> Hobby nets, contests and meetings
=> Social events
Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

**CLUB
INFORMATION**

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